



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

JUN 13 2013

Ms. Peggy Hatch, Secretary
Louisiana Dept of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary,
P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, La 70821-4301

Dear Secretary Hatch,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering proposing the Delta Shipyard site in Houma, Louisiana on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL), pursuant to its authority under Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9605. The NPL contains a list of priority sites with releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants that require evaluation for possible remediation. It is the EPA's policy to determine the state's position on sites that the EPA is considering placing on the NPL. On January 10, 2012, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) asked the EPA for assistance in evaluating this site for both Removal and Remedial consideration. The EPA has been working cooperatively with your staff throughout the site assessment process and greatly appreciates the LDEQ's assistance in evaluating this site. With this letter, the EPA is seeking the concurrence of the State of Louisiana on adding the Delta Shipyard site to the NPL.

The Delta Shipyard site is located within an industrial area in Houma, LA. The site is not fenced, nor is there any site security to limit public access to the site. The site is bordered to the north by Elevate Boats Inc. (EBI), to the east by Company Canal waterway, to the south by an industrial crane company and to the west by Bayou LaCarpe. Delta Shipyard was a cleaning and repair facility for small cargo boats, fishing boats, and oil barges. The area of concern consists of three evaporation pits located approximately 800 feet south of the EBI fabrication building and east of Dean Court road. The majority of the land surrounding Pits 1 through 3 is a wetland. The volume of hazardous materials associated with the three pits is estimated to be greater than 30,000 cubic yards. In response to LDEQ concerns, the EPA conducted an integrated assessment, and sampling was completed on August 9, 2012. Sampling documented the release of arsenic, antimony, anthracene, barium, benzene, cadmium, chromium, ethylbenzene, fluorene, lead, manganese, mercury, 2-methylnaphthalene, naphthalene, phenanthrene, pyrene, o-xylene, and m,p-xylene to the surface water pathway.

The EPA is committed to working cooperatively with the State and local community throughout the listing and subsequent Superfund cleanup process, and to ensuring that the EPA's actions are conducted in an open and transparent manner. For a fund-financed remedial action, prior to initiation of the remedial action, the EPA and the State will collaborate in the development of a superfund state contract to provide the state assurances required by CERCLA, including, for example, the State's statutory cost share for the remedial action and assumption of operation and maintenance responsibilities.



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The EPA is requesting a written response to this letter from your Governor's office or from the State Environmental Agency by August 1, 2013. The EPA has set this date to allow adequate time to meet the proposed rule schedule. The response letter should indicate whether the State supports placement of the site on the NPL. If the State does not support listing, the State should describe the alternative approach to placement on the NPL that will ensure the identified priority site and associated release(s) will be addressed. The EPA will be sharing information with the community regarding the State's position, including posting the information on the internet. The EPA will also invite the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to participate in any community meetings during the listing process.

We will continue to work closely with and seek input from the state as the listing process proceeds. We appreciate your consideration of this matter. If additional information is needed or you would like to meet to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (214) 665-6701, or have your staff, call Brenda Nixon Cook, Region 6 NPL Coordinator, at (214) 665-7436.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carl Edlund", written over a faint, larger signature.

Carl Edlund, P.E.

Director

Superfund Division

CC: Ms. Cheryl Nolan, LDEQ
Mr. Tom Harris, LDEQ
Mr. John Halk, LDEQ
Ms. Terry Jeng, EPA-OSRTI